

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1008
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01683

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, IR, SW
SUBJECT: NEW SWEDISH AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED TO IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 3627

1. KAJ INGEMAR SUNDBERG, RECENTLY APPOINTED SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO IRAN, ARRIVED IN NEW YORK AS DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1970. FROM 1965 TO 1970, AMBASSADOR SUNDBERG SERVED IN THE MFA AS COUNSELLOR IN CHARGE OF UN AFFAIRS AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES. HE JOINED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1948 AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY IN HELSINKI (1949 TO 1951) AND AT THE CONSULATE IN BOMBAY (1952 TO 1954). UNTIL 1961 HE WAS ASSIGNED IN THE MFA POLITICAL SECTION. FROM 1961 TO 1964 HE WAS FIRST SECRETARY AND LATER COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR AT THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

2. AMBASSADOR SUNDBERG IS PLEASANT, QUIET, AND PROFESSIONAL. HE SHOWS A GENUINE DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, PROBABLY DUE IN PART TO THE LENGTH OF TIME HE HAS SPENT IN THE U.S. AND THE FACT THAT HE HAS AN AMERICAN WIFE. HE IS
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AN INTERESTING CONVERSATIONALIST ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS AND ENTERTAINS GRACIOUSLY.

3. SUNDBERG IS NOT AN ASSERTIVE PERSON, AND SEVERAL OF HIS JUNIOR OFFICERS HAVE BEEN PRIVATELY CRITICAL OF HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO STAND AGAINST COUNTER-ARGUMENTS OR DEFEND THEM TO HIGHER AUTHORITY. IN OUR

DEALINGS WITH HIM WE HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE WELL-INFORMED
ON THE SUBJECTS HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO FOLLOW. HE
HAS FAITHFULLY MAINTAINED A PRIVATE CONSULTATIVE
CHANNEL WITH OUR POLITICAL OFFICERS, PARTICULARLY ON
SOUTHERN AFRICA AND NONALIGNED AFFAIRS. HE REPORTEDLY
HAS HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORCHESTRATING SWEDISH
SOUNDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK OF THE SO-CALLED
SWEDISH PROPOSAL AGAINST NEW INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH
AFRICA. HE USUALLY IS PERSISTENTLY DETAILED IN HIS
QUESTIONING, BUT HE OFFERS NO IMAGINATIVE IDEAS IN
DRIVING A CONVERSATION. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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